

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01

AGRE-00 OMB-01 STR-04 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 OIC-02

/114 W

-----087228 071752Z /46

R 071424Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0710

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07514

USEEC, PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EEC

SUBJ: FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

REFS: (A) ROME 5047 (NOTAL); (B) LONDON 10981 (NOTAL);
(C) ECA-164

1. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO DISCUSSION BY THE EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THEIR MARCH 25-26 EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN ROME (REF A), THE UK PRESIDENCY UNDERTOOK A STUDY OF MEANS BY WHICH THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MIGHT BE IMPROVED. MISSION HAS OBTAINED A COPY OF THE BRITISH NOTE ON ORGANIZATION OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETINGS, WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DURING THEIR JUNE 29-30 MEETING IN LONDON (REF B). TEXT OF THE NOTE FOLLOWS BELOW:

2. BEGIN TEXT:

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PRIOR TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN ROME AT THE END OF MARCH, THE PRESIDENCY CIRCULATED A PAPER WHICH SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH POINTS OF AGREEMENT WHICH HAD EMERGED FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE WAYS IN WHICH THE ORGANIZATION OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETINGS MIGHT BE IMPROVED. IN THE

LIGHT OF THE DISCUSSION AT THAT MEETING, WHICH WAS FOLLOWED UP BY FOREIGN MINISTERS ON 5 THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO REPRESENT A GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE FRAMEWORK FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

(A) TYPES OF DISCUSSION

THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE BOTH:

(I) INFORMAL EXCHANGES OF VIEW OF A WIDE-RANGING NATURE HELD IN THE GREATEST PRIVACY AND NOT DESIGNED TO LEAD TO FORMAL DECISIONS OR PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

(II) DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO PRODUCE DECISIONS, SETTLE GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE ACTION OR LEAD TO THE ISSUE OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS EXPRESSING THE AGREED VIEW OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

IT IS ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WILL SOMETIMES NEED TO FULFIL A THIRD FUNCTION, NAMELY TO SETTLE ISSUES OUTSTANDING FROM DISCUSSIONS AT A LOWER CONFIDENTIAL

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LEVEL, AND THERE WILL BE A NEED WHEN IT DOES SO FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL TO CONFORM TO THE APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN THE COMMUNITY TREATIES AND OTHER AGREEMENTS. (USEC COMMENT: PERM REP OFFICIALS TELL US THAT FRG CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT EMPHASIZED HIS VIEW IN LONDON THAT THIS THIRD FUNCTION SHOULD BE SPARINGLY EXERCISED.)

(B) ADVANCE PREPARATION OF THE AGENDA

FOR INFORMAL EXCHANGES OF VIEW, IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT LITTLE PREPARATION IS NECESSARY, ALTHOUGH SOME LIMITED PRIOR CLARIFICATION OF THE QUESTIONS IS NOT TO BE EXCLUDED IF IT WOULD FACILITATE DISCUSSION. HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD INFORM EACH OTHER OR THE PRESIDENCY, A FEW DAYS BEFOREHAND, OF THE SUBJECTS WHICH THEY WILL WISH TO DISCUSS. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE PREPARATION OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE AIMED AT REACHING DECISIONS OR ISSUING STATEMENTS. FOREIGN MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH PREPARATION, WHICH COULD TAKE PLACE IN THE COUNCIL OR THE POLITICAL COOPERATION MACHINERY AS APPROPRIATE, AND WILL WISH TO MEET AT AN

APPROPRIATE TIME, AND IF NECESSARY TO HOLD A SPECIAL
MEETING BEFORE THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, FOR THIS PURPOSE.
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(C) THE ISSUING OF STATEMENTS

IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WILL
WISH TO MAKE PUBLIC ITS DECISIONS ON SOME SUBJECTS OR
SOMETIMES TO ISSUE A STATEMENT REGISTERING A CONCERTED
COMMUNITY OPINION ON A TOPIC OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN.
SUCH STATEMENTS SHOULD NOT, OTHER THAN IN EXCEPTIONAL
CIRCUMSTANCES, BE ISSUED WITHOUT ADVANCE PREPARATION.
A LIST OF THE SUBJECTS ON WHICH IT IS PROPOSED STATE-
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MENTS SHOULD BE ISSUED SHOULD BE DRAWN UP 2-3 WEEKS IN

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
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R 071424Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07514

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ADVANCE.

(D) THE RECORDING OF CONCLUSIONS

THERE SHOULD BE NO RECORD OF THE INFORMAL EXCHANGES OF VIEW BETWEEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. FOR THE DISCUSSIONS AIMED AT REACHING DECISIONS OR ISSUING STATEMENTS THERE SHOULD BE A WRITTEN RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS, WHICH SHOULD BE ISSUED ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRESIDENCY.

(E) ATTENDANCE OF OFFICIALS

THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS SHOULD BE AS INTIMATE AS POSSIBLE AND THAT ATTENDANCE SHOULD BE RESTRICTED AS AT PRESENT. END TEXT.HINTON

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Message Attributes

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